

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13, 18, 23 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-3, 9-10 and 12-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shino (US 5,296,692). Additional art was cited of interest.

In accordance with the present response, independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to further patentably distinguish from the prior art of record by defining with more specificity that the card type electronic device has a connector that is configured to selectively connect the card type electronic device to the host device via both a first configuration, in which the card type electronic device is connected directly to a first card slot of the host device without the adapter, and a second configuration, in which the card type electronic device is connected to a second card slot of the host device via the adapter. Paragraph [0073] of the specification has been amended to add the abbreviation TDMA for time division multiple access. Claims 1-3, 9-10 and 12-36 are currently pending in this application.

Applicants request reconsideration of their application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following discussion.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 13, 18, 23 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner contends that the limitation "time division multiple access (TDMA)" was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully disagree with this contention.

Each of dependent claims 13, 18, 23 and 33 is directed to the feature that a time division multiple access (TDMA) system is used to transmit and receive radio telephone signals via the card type electronic device. This feature is clearly described in the specification as originally filed, such as, for example, in paragraphs [0073]-[0076].

Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution, paragraph [0073] of the specification has been revised to add the abbreviation TDMA for time division multiple access.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 13, 18, 23 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Brief Summary of the Invention

The present invention is directed to a card type electronic device system. As described in the specification (pgs. 1-3), conventional card type electronic device systems have not been capable of performing both a function equivalent to that of a PC card and a function in accordance with a maximum supply current standard value of a PC card slot.

The present invention overcomes the drawback of the conventional art. Figs. 1-5 show an embodiment of a card type electronic device system according to the present invention embodied in the claims. The card type electronic device system has an adapter 2 including self-identification means (210, 220) compliant with a preselected recognition procedure for identifying the adapter 2. A card type electronic device 1 has a connector 120 configured to selectively connect the card type electronic device 1 to a host device 3 via both a first configuration in which the card type electronic device 1 is connected directly to a first card slot of the host device 1 without the adapter 2 and a second configuration in which the card type electronic device 1 is connected to a second card slot (e.g., PC card slot 301 in Fig. 2) of the host device 3 via the adapter 2. The card type electronic device 1 starts an operation upon receipt of a current supply from the first card slot or the second card slot to which it is connected, the second card slot having a maximum supply current standard value greater than that of the first card slot.

The card type electronic device 1 further comprises recognition means (e.g., CPU 114a) for recognizing the adapter 2, upon the start of an operation of the card type electronic device 1, in accordance with the preselected recognition procedure that determines whether the card type electronic device 1 is connected to the first card slot or to the second card slot of the host device 3. The card type electronic device 1 further comprises control means (e.g., CPU 114a) for selecting predetermined operation conditions which match the maximum supply current standard value of the first card slot when the recognition means recognizes that the card type electronic device 1 is connected to the first card slot, and for selecting predetermined operation conditions which match the maximum supply current standard value of the second card slot when the recognition means recognizes that the card type electronic device 1 is connected to the second card slot.

By the foregoing construction, the present invention provides a card type electronic device system capable of performing both a function equivalent to that of a PC card and a function in accordance with a maximum supply current standard value of a PC card slot.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1 and 9, independent claim 29, and the corresponding dependent claims 2, 3, 10, 12-28 and 30-36 patentably distinguish from the prior art of record.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 9-10 and 12-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shino (US 5,296,692). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Shino is directed to an IC card adapter for use in a memory card slot with or without a superimposed memory card. In the embodiment relied upon by the Examiner shown in Fig. 10 of Shino, a card type electronic device 50 is connected to a host device 10' via an adapter 40. The adapter 40 has an identification signal generator 43a provided in a circuit unit 43 of the adapter 40. According to Shino, when the adapter 40 is mounted in a slot 11' of the host device 10' with contacts 42 of the adapter 40 electrically connected to pins 12' of the slot 11', current is fed from the host device 10' to the identification signal generator 43a, causing the identification signal generator 43a to send a prescribed signal to the host device 10' indicating that the adapter 40, not a memory card 70, has been mounted. Shino further discloses that with the foregoing identification signal, the host device 10' automatically selects a suitable access program for the card type electronic device 50 mounted in the adapter 40.

Thus in Shino the identification signal generator 43a, which the Examiner has interpreted as corresponding to the "recognition means" recited in independent claims 1, 9 and 29, is incorporated in the adapter 40. In contrast, each of independent claims 1, 9 and 29 requires that the card type electronic device

comprises recognition means for recognizing the adapter, upon the start of an operation of the card type electronic device, in accordance with a preselected recognition procedure that determines whether the card type electronic device is connected to the first card slot or to the second card slot of the host device. Shino does not disclose or suggest the foregoing recognition means and corresponding function provided in a card type electronic device, such as in the card type electronic device 50 of Shino.

Furthermore, Shino does not disclose or suggest recognition means for recognizing the adapter in accordance with a preselected recognition procedure that determines whether the card type electronic device is connected to a first card slot or to a second card slot of a host device. In this regard, upon receipt of the prescribed signal from the identification signal generator 43a, the host device 10' in Shino selects a suitable access program for the card type electronic device. However, such program selection, or any other function performed either by the host device 10' or the card type electronic device 50, does not involve the recognition of an adapter in accordance with a preselected recognition procedure that determines whether the card type electronic device is connected to a first card slot or a second card slot of the host device, as required by each of independent claims 1, 9 and 29.

Still further, in Shino the host device 10' automatically selects a suitable access program for the card type

electronic device 50 mounted in the adapter 40 for the purpose of preventing misidentification and misoperation of the card type electronic device 50 (column 7, lines 31-37). Thus, in Shino the selection of the suitable access program is performed by the host device 10', not the card type electronic device 50. In contrast, each of independent claims 1, 9 and 30 requires that the card type electronic device comprises control means for selecting predetermined operation conditions which match a supply current standard value of either a first card slot or a second card slot of the host device in accordance with whether the recognition means recognizes that the card type electronic device is connected to the first or second card slot.

Accordingly, not only does the card type electronic device 50 of Shino not comprise the specific control means and corresponding functions of the card type electronic device recited in independent claims 1, 9 and 29, but the specific function performed by the host device 10' (i.e., the automatic selection of a suitable access program for the card type electronic device 50) of Shino does not correspond nor involve the specific selection of the predetermined operation conditions performed by the control means recited in independent claims 1, 9 and 29.

Moreover, each of independent claims 1, 9 and 29 requires that, for the first and second card slots of the host device to which the card type electronic device is connected (i.e., either directly or via the adapter), the second card slot

has a maximum supply current standard value greater than that of the first card slot. While recognizing that Shino does not disclose or suggest this feature, the Examiner contends that such a feature would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the purpose of detecting whether the card type electronic device is mounted to the host device via the adapter or not. Applicants respectfully disagree. With respect to this feature recited in claims 1, 9 and 29, the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. There must be some teaching, reason, suggestion, or motivation found in the prior art to make a combination or modification which renders an invention obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C §103. See, e.g., Symbol Technologies, Inc. v. Opticon, Inc., 935 F.2d 982, 989, 18 USPQ2d 1885 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Here, neither Shino, nor any of the references cited of interest by the Examiner, teaches that for first and second card slots of a host device to which a card type electronic device is connected (i.e., either directly or via the adapter), the second card slot has a maximum supply current standard value greater than that of the first card slot, as required by each of independent claims 1, 9 and 29.

In order to advance prosecution, each of independent claims 1 and 9 has been amended to define with more specificity that the card type electronic device has a connector that is configured to selectively connect the card type electronic device to the host device via both a first configuration, in which the

card type electronic device is connected directly to a first card slot of the host device without the adapter, and a second configuration, in which the card type electronic device is connected to a second card slot of the host device via the adapter. This structure and corresponding function distinguish claims 1 and 9 from Shino, particularly when interpreted in conjunction with the recognition means and control means and corresponding functions of the card type electronic device as they relate to the preselected recognition procedure that determines whether the card type electronic device is connected to the first card slot or to the second card slot of the host device (recognition means) and the selection of the predetermined operation conditions matching the maximum supply current standard value of either the first card slot or the second card slot of the host device to which the card type electronic device is connected (control means).

Independent claim 29 recites that the card type electronic device has a connector for direct connection to a first card slot of the host device, and an adapter that connects the card type electronic device to a second card slot of the host device. No corresponding structure is disclosed or suggested by Shino as set forth above for amended independent claims 1 and 9.

Claims 2, 3, 12-26, claims 10, 27, 28, and claims 30-36 depend on and contain all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 9 and 29, respectively, and, therefore, distinguish

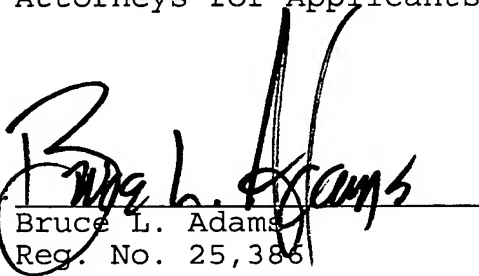
from the prior art of record at least for the reasons set forth above for independent claims 1, 9 and 29.

In view the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are most respectfully requested. In the event the Examiner determines that something further need be done to place the application in allowable form, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number whereupon any outstanding matter will be promptly attended to.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS
Attorneys for Applicants

By


Bruce L. Adams
Reg. No. 25,386

17 Battery Place
Suite 1231
New York, NY 10004
(212) 809-3700

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